

Project Summary and Resource Determination Form – 20190221

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

1.0 Project Information

Responsible Official has approved Project Proposal: Y	Comment Due Date: [09/26/2019]
Project Title: Sunnyside Pitch 1 Adjustment	
Project Lead/Manager: Ben Kraja	
Applicant/Proponent (if applicable): Alta Ski Area	
District(s) (Select all that apply): Salt Lake Ranger District	
General Location: The Sunny Side Pitch 1 project is located near the bottom of the Home Run ski trail near the Albion Base Area and maintenance shop.	
Elevation Range (feet): 8,685 – 8,738 ft elevation	
Legal Land Description: T3E R3S Section 5	
County(s) (Select all that apply): Salt Lake	
Project Map Included: Yes	GIS Shapefiles Included: N
Amount of new disturbance (acres): 0 acres	
Amount of previous disturbance (acres): 0.8 acres	
Amount of TOTAL disturbance (acres): 0.8 acres	
Duration of Project: Fall of 2019 or summer of 2020.	
Management Prescription(s) (Select all that apply): 4.5 (Developed Recreation Areas)	
Type of NEPA (Select One): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CE <input type="checkbox"/> EA <input type="checkbox"/> EIS	
If CE, list Category (select all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> 36 CFR 220.6(d)(5) Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities.	

2.0 Project Summary

Purpose and Need:

The purpose of this project is to add fill and recontour a short lower section of the Home Run ski run so that the grade is more consistent; providing safe egress for beginning skiers.

The Home Run ski run is a beginner ski run that is accessed from the Sunnyside chairlift. It is one of the easier ways down from the top of the lift. The last pitch of this run into the base area is known as Sunnyside Pitch 1. While acceptable gradients for beginner slopes are 8 to 15 percent, a significant portion of this pitch has a slope gradient ranging from 22 to 27 percent. Beginner skiers are challenged by this steep section of trail, making it difficult for them to safely utilize the terrain. This results in beginner skier congestion at the top of the pitch as they stop and wait until the slope is clear enough for them to try and navigate the pitch. Once they snowplow or ski slowly down the steep pitch, they do not have enough speed to glide the remaining 300 plus feet on relatively flat terrain to the Sunnyside lift maze. Consequently, they often try to walk through this area (with skis on) causing congestion as more advanced skiers pass by, having maintained their speed down the steep pitch. Besides being difficult for less experienced skiers, it puts them in less than ideal conditions and increases the risk of skier collisions in this area.

Reducing the slope gradient of Sunnyside Pitch 1 to a more beginner-friendly gradient would substantially improve the skier experience and safety for the least skilled skiers. The adjusted pitch would reduce congestion at the top and bottom of the slope and provide a pitch that skiers can navigate with enough speed to glide to the lift mazes. This would result in more consistent skier flow through the area and significantly reduce or eliminate the number of beginner skiers walking (with skis on) in this area.

Proposed Action:

Alta Ski Area would modify the gradient of Sunnyside Pitch 1 to a more skier friendly gradient of 12 to 16 percent by adding natural fill to the steep pitch with excess material from the Albion Parking Lot project (see map below). The Albion Parking lot project was modified to reduce its impact on a jurisdictional wetland area by reducing the fill area on the south side of the parking lot and increasing the cut on the north side of the parking lot. The excess cut material from the north side of the parking lot project would be transported approximately 350 feet to Sunnyside Pitch 1 and used to reduce the slope gradient of this pitch. The proposed area of disturbance is 0.80 acres. Approximately 6,100 cubic yards of fill material would be used to reduce the slope gradient.

Prior changing the grade of Sunnyside Pitch 1 with fill material from the parking lot project, native plant plugs and topsoil would be removed and saved for revegetation of the modified slope. The Alta Environmental Center would oversee the revegetation of the disturbed area with a seed mix approved by the Forest Service, plugs removed prior to adding fill, and native plants grown from seed gathered from the area. Approximately, 1,000 native plants per acre would be planted in this area for three consecutive years to facilitate revegetation of the recontoured area. There are no trees in the area of disturbance that would need to be cut.

All the area being disturbed by this project has been previously disturbed. The utility corridor previously installed in this area would not need any modification. The trail and erosion control features in the area of disturbance would be adjusted to the new slope gradient. Best Management Practices would be used for erosion control and revegetation of the disturbed area.

A vegetative and wetland review has been performed by Cirrus Ecological Solutions, LC, within the previously disturbed ski run. No federally listed threatened or endangered plant species or Forest Service Sensitive species were found in the surveyed area. No wetlands of other Waters of the US were found in the surveyed area.

This project would be completed in conjunction with the Albion Basin parking lot project. An excavator, haul truck, and grader would be used to fill and grade the area. Access to the area would be via the existing service roads and trails.

Alta Ski Area would like to complete this project during the fall of 2019 or summer of 2020.

Required Design Criteria as per Resource Determinations:

- Wetlands are present adjacent to the project area and have been delineated by ASL/Cirrus. Project has been designed to avoid this feature. Additional construction inspection/monitoring is recommended during implementation to ensure feature is not impacted. Silt fencing should be installed to ensure feature is protected from storm generated erosion/sedimentation during construction.

- Top soil should be salvaged/placed on top of newly graded ski run to promote successful revegetation. Existing water bars should be reconstructed. Ski run should be seeded. Erosion control fabric should be installed.
- Make sure the recreating public doesn't have access to the project site during the construction phases of the project. Place signs up notifying the public that construction is in progress once the project begins.

- Follow BMP's to prevent the spread of noxious and invasive weeds (as applicable):

- All existing infestations within/adjacent to project area should be treated prior to project implementation.
- Do not stage equipment, materials, or crews in invasive plant populations.
- All equipment should be cleaned and free of vegetation, soil, and debris prior to beginning work on Forest Service land.
- Revegetation should be initiated as promptly as practical. Seed only where natural regeneration of desirable species is unlikely or is susceptible to or threatened by invasive or noxious plants. Seed mix will be approved by the Forest Service and certified weed free.
- For at least three years after project completion, treat invading noxious weeds as needed on areas impacted by ground disturbing operations.

Implement ski area BMPs.

3.0 Map



